

Message Text

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15
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07

ERDA-05 NRC-05 OMB-01 /072 W
----- 067953

P R 100724Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8724
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CINCPACFLT
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
ASD/ISA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5783

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
ASD/ISA FOR ADMIRAL R. HILTON

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, AS
SUBJ: NPW PORT ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA: TRUXTUN VISIT

REF: A. CANBERRA 5509 (300608Z JUL 76) B. STATE 176559
(161753Z JUL 76)

1. A PROBLEM HAS ARISEN CONCERNING THE TRUXTUN VISIT TO
MELBOURNE. THE VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AGREE TO
A GOA REQUEST THAT TRUXTUN BE BERTHED AT BREAKWATER PIER.
VICTORIAN AUTHORITIES INSIST THAT THEY CANNOT PROVIDE ADE-
QUATE SECURITY FOR THE VESSEL AT THIS BERTH AND ARE
RELUCTANT TO HAVE THIS BERTH WHICH IS DESIGNED TO HANDLE
HAZARDOUS COMMERCIAL CARGOES PUT OUTOF COMMERCIAL OPER-
ATION DURING THE TRUXTUN VISIT.

2. ONE ALTERNATIVE IS HAVE THE TRUXTUN ANCHOR OUT IN PORT
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PHILLIP BAY. THE VICTORIAN AUTHORITIES OPPOSE THIS ON THE

GROUND'S THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR LAUNCHES PROCEEDING TO THE PORT AREA, AND IT ALSO DOES NOT SEEM TOO DESIREABLE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

3. THE OTHER ALTERNATIVE (WHICH THE VICTORIAN AUTHORITIES SUPPORT) IS TO HAVE TRUXTUN TIE UP AT PRINCESSPIER. HOWEVER, GOA AUTHORITIES POINT OUT THAT PRINCESS PIER IS A CATEGORY B BERTH (SEE PARA 3 SUBPARA 3 REFTEL A), WHICH MEANS THAT THE FISSION PRODUCT BURDEN IN ANY REACTOR MUST BE LIMITED TO 250,000 CURIES WHILE AN NPW IS BERTHED THERE. AS WE READ REFTEL B THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE USG.

4. TO RESOLVE THE DILEMMA GOA HAS URGED USG TO SEND TEAM TO CANBERRA AS PROPOSED IN REFTEL A (PARA 2 SUBPARA 6). PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD BE TO GIVE GOA CREDIBLE BASIS TO REVISE ITS CRITERIA FOR SUITABLE BERTHS FOR NPW'S SO AS TO CHANGE PRINCESSPIER FROM CATEGORY B TO CATEGORY C. (SEE PARA 3 SUBPARA 3 REFTEL A). GOA OFFICIALS NOTED THAT BERTHING CATEGORIES WERE BASED UPON WORSE CASE ASSUMPTIONS RE LEAK RATE DATA (1.5 PCT PER DAY) AND NO SECONDARY CONTAINMENT. GOA VERY MUCH HOPES THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH US TEAM IT WILL BE BETTER INFORMED IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO JUSTIFY REVISING THESE ASSUMPTIONS.

5. COMMENT: WE REALIZE THAT A VISIT BY US TEAM MAY NOT BE ABLE TO RESOLVE ALL THESE PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IN THE SHORT TIME FRAME PRIOR TO SCHEDULED VISIT BY TRUXTUN, BUT BELIEVE THAT IF ALL POSSIBLE SHOULD MAKE ATTEMPT AND HONOR GOA'S URGENT REQUEST FOR TEAM VISIT.
HARGROVE

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